

of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes." Though the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has allowed us to see the light at the end of the tunnel on our road to recovery, we still have a long road ahead. H. Res. 3548 allows States to extend their helping hand to pull America out of this deep recession.

In the midst of what has been categorized as the longest and deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression, many Americans still find themselves struggling to get by. Although the unemployment rates in some areas around the country have shown signs of leveling off, in my home State of Texas, many are still fighting to get on the right track. Americans of all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds are tired of struggling to feed, clothe, and provide shelter their families. I cite my mentor and predecessor Barbara Jordan who noted, "We are a people trying not only to solve the problems of the present: unemployment, inflation . . . but we are attempting on a larger scale to fulfill the promise of America."

With an unemployment rate in Texas of 8.2 percent, which is just below the national average, we in Texas are working diligently in a legislative capacity for the benefit of our constituents. The unemployment rate of my home district of Houston is just above the state average, at 8.4 percent, and I will not cease to take every effort to combat the problem. Over this past weekend we held our 2nd job fair in three months, where we called upon over 50 public and private sector representatives to bring employment opportunities to those in need throughout the Houston area. I saw lives change that weekend. The American people need a helping hand now; it is not time of partisan antics that delay assistance to those whom we represent.

H. Res. 3548 will allow States to extend the assistance offered to their unemployed constituents so that families may continue their pursuit of the American dream. H. Res. 3548 sets forth a formula for determining if a state is in an extended benefit period and authorizes a state to pay extended compensation to an eligible individual before any additional Emergency Unemployment Compensation, EUC, if such individual claimed extended compensation for at least one week of unemployment after the exhaustion of additional EUC.

CONGRATULATING RUSSELLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOR ITS GRANT TO PREPARE STUDENTS OF AP TESTING

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Russellville High School for being accepted as an Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science School.

Beginning with the 2009–2010 school year Russellville High School will be receiving \$750,000 in grant money, to be distributed over the next four years, to help teachers, along with students in properly preparing for the Advance Placement Exams, which take place every May.

These funds will help the students do well on the exams. This is a great honor for the school district that will help develop the skills our students need to excel in a global economy.

Arkansas was one of just seven states selected to receive grant money and Russellville High School was just one of 24 schools chosen in the state. I am proud to support both the students and teachers of Russellville High School and look forward to the academic excellence that will come from Russellville High in the years to follow.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINATION OF BELINDA GEERTSMA FOR THE 2009 ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARD

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to say that it is a great honor and privilege to nominate Belinda Geertsma for the 2009 Angels in Adoption award. Belinda serves as an international adoption worker for Bethany Christian Services in Holland, Michigan.

One co-worker describes Belinda as "an amazing social worker with genuine passion for the families and children she serves. She is humble, gracious and has a servant's heart."

Belinda has a unique passion for special needs children, and has a remarkable history of finding homes for many children who are considered hard to place. In 2008, of all the international social workers in Bethany's nationwide constellation of offices, Belinda placed the most special needs children with their forever families.

In July of 2009, Belinda traveled to China by invitation of the Chinese Government to assess 41 special needs children in an orphanage in Shanghai. By the end of August of 2009, 31 of these precious children had been matched with a family, and many others were under consideration.

While in China, she was asked to find a family for a 13-year-old girl who desperately wanted to be adopted. In China, children are no longer made available for adoption when they turn 14. Her 14th birthday was only 4 months away. Within a week of being home, Belinda had found a family that was thrilled to adopt this girl.

Belinda is a person who allows herself, through hard work, persistence, and compassion, to cause miracles to happen for children and families. I cannot imagine a better candidate for the Angels in Adoption award.

SERVICES FOR ENDING LONG- TERM HOMELESSNESS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act. The sad

reality our nation faces is that more than a half million Americans do not have a place to call home each night, and half of them are without shelter. This bill will alleviate the widespread problem of chronic homelessness across the country.

According to the Department of Children and Families' most recent report, there are 85,907 persons homeless on any given day. At least 2 million people find themselves homeless at some point each year in our country. There isn't nearly enough shelter for these individuals. In 2007, my home state of Florida alone had 48,000 homeless people, with 14,900 of them families and 7,691 of them chronic cases.

Recently, I heard the story of a 25-year-old mother of three young children in my district, who was running out of options—staying at a hotel in Palm Beach County after fleeing domestic violence in Miami. As she was running out of money, she and her kids—ages 6, 5 and 3—soon would be homeless. But, they were some of the lucky ones. She was referred to The Lord's Place residence for homeless families, where she now lives with her children. As a leader in my district for chronic homelessness solutions, the Lord's Place is a perfect example of the types of establishments that would benefit immensely from this legislation. In her words: "I am here. I am working. I am breathing. And I am grateful."

Throughout our country, over 100,000 people have nowhere to call home for years on end and all too often are confronted with mental illness, substance addiction, life-threatening illness or other serious health problems. The good news is: this bill presents us with an opportunity to put an end to this national crisis that hits home for all of us.

In 2003, the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health recommended the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan designed to create 150,000 units of permanent supportive housing for consumers and families who are chronically homeless. Affordable housing alone can't meet the needs for many people with severe mental illness. This bill will establish funding for supportive housing, affordable housing linked to accessible mental health, substance addiction, unemployment, and other support services as necessary. Permanent supportive housing is cost-effective, and is the soundest available investment of public and private resources to end long-term homelessness.

Current programs for funding services in permanent supportive housing, other than those administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, were not designed to be closely coordinated with housing resources, nor were they designed to meet the multiple needs of people who are chronically homeless. This bill will establish a comprehensive grant program to provide supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families that they so badly need. Support services will include mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, referrals for medical and dental care, health education, and services designed to help individuals make progress toward self-sufficiency and recovery. Permanent supportive housing can help the chronically homeless stay off the streets, out of hospitals and jails, and ultimately help them achieve the stability they